

A
YOUNG INDIAN'S
ALL-FAITHS
THOUGHT BOOK



For
Encouraging
RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE
and
MUTUAL RESPECT

07356

1st Edition : March, 1993

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**A
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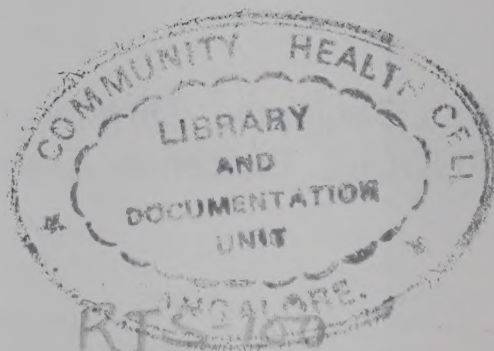
Parallel texts on various pertinent
themes from the HOLY BOOKS of
Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains,
Muslims, Parsees, Sikhs and quotations
from great Spiritual Leaders

Illustrated by
Ramananda Bandopadhyay

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YOUNG INDIANS
ALL FAITHS
THOUGHT BOOK

Picture book on various religions
written from the HOLY BOOKS of
Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam,
Judaism, and the religions of the
East and West.



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INTRODUCTION

I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and mutual acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but *we accept all religions as true.*

I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth.

- *Swami Vivekananda*

In his address to the
World's Parliament of Religions,
Chicago, U.S.A., 11 September 1893

INTRODUCTION

I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and mutual acceptance. We believe not only in universal brotherhood, but we accept all religions as true.

I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the world.

— Swami Vivekananda

In the address made
to the Parliament of Religions
Chicago, U.S.A. on September 28th

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A. Whoever comes to Me, through whatever form, I reach him. All men are struggling through paths which, in the end, lead to Me.

B. God as creator and God as good,
God in His bounty and God in His mercy, is all one God.

.....
We should not separate
God from God!

C. There is one God, and there is none other but He.

D. I serve my God, my strength,
my hope ——
I live in Him alone.
He may be called by different names,
But for me, He's only One.

E. The Koran and the Purans praise the same Lord.

F. There is no God but God.

G. If I had a hundred thousand tongues
instead of one,
And the hundred thousand
multiplied twenty-fold,
A hundred thousand times would I say,
And say again,
The Lord of all the worlds is One.

H. When one knows *Thee*,
Then alien there is none,
Then no door is shut.

Oh, grant me my prayer that
I may never lose
The bliss of the touch of the *One*
In the play of the *many*.

This space is for **YOU** to write more quotations.

KEY to QUOTATIONS in this section :

- A. Gita
- B. Guru Granth Sahib
- C. Bible
- D. Tulsidas
- E. Guru Granth Sahib
- F. Koran
- G. Guru Granth Sahib
- H. Rabindranath Tagore

- A. Further, hear the highest secret of all, My supreme message : because you are greatly loved by Me, I will tell you what is good for you.

- B. Preach to mankind : – If you love God, follow me. God will love you and forgive you your sins. God is oft forgiving, most merciful.

- C. Beloved, let us love one another : for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

He that loves not does not know God;
for God is Love.

This space is for **YOU** to write more quotations.

KEY to QUOTATIONS in this section :

- A. Gita
- B. Koran
- C. Bible

SERVICE TO THE POOR AND NEEDY

- A. Let him who has two coats give one to him who has none; and he that has meat, let him do the same.

- B. Pity may be reserved.... for the suffering animals; but humanity deserves from you something nobler, it asks for love, for understanding, for comradeship, for the help of equal and brother.

- C. The Kingdom of God is for him who helps the needy. Forget yourself and see God in every being and everything.

- D. If you desire to acquire true knowledge, make people's welfare your aim in life.

- E. When you give charity, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.
- F. Whatever contribution you make....God knows it. If you give charity publicly, it is well, but if you secretly give to the poor, it is better for you.
- G. The righteous man is he who....for the love of God, gives his wealth to his kin-folk, the orphans, the needy, the wayfarers and the beggars.....who attends to his prayers and pays the poor-tax.....Such are the true believers, such are God-fearing.
- H. Do not harden your heart or shut your hand from your poor brother. Open your hand wide unto him. Lend him what he needs.

I. Wealth and children are adornments of this earthly life, but good works of charity to the needy...are far better because they are ever-lasting with your Lord for reward in the hereafter and better to get you forgiveness of your faults.

J. Even though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could move mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

SERVICE TO THE POOR AND NEEDY

This space is for **YOU** to write more quotations.

KEY to QUOTATIONS in this section :

- | | |
|----------------------|----------|
| A. Bible | F. Koran |
| B. Shri Aurobindo | G. Koran |
| C. Zend Avesta | H. Bible |
| D. Guru Granth Sahib | I. Koran |
| E. Bible | J. Bible |

A. Let us live happily, hating none though others hate. Let us live without hate among those who hate.

B. Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them.

Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully.

C. For the good man,
happiness now and later,
happiness everywhere.

"I have done good," he says
– and rejoices.

He rejoices more in the next birth.

D. The most happy man
is he who most promotes
the happiness of others.

This space is for **YOU** to write more quotations.

KEY to QUOTATIONS in this section :

- A. Dhammapada
- B. Bible
- C. Koran
- D. Zarathustra

- A. Blessed are the peace-makers;
They shall be called the children of God.

- B. We are brothers and sisters all belonging
to one great human family, and are
children of one Father, that is You, oh
God. Teach us, oh Father, to live as
comrades all in willing fellowship and
loving brotherhood, in helpfulness and
cooperation. Inspire us, oh God, to live
in mutual understanding and trust and
peace.

- C. What does the Lord ask of you, but that
you do justly, love mercy and walk
humbly with your God?

- D. When justice is violated, it destroys;
when justice is preserved, it preserves.
Therefore, justice must not be violated so
that violated justice does not destroy us.

E. Woe to the unjust who, when others measure for them, exact in full, but when they measure or weigh for others, defraud them.

F. May God grant peace to the land, the nation, the city and the state, and welfare on all the citizens.

May the
rulers and administrators be
strong, law-abiding and pious.

May the rains be timely and adequate.

May all diseases and ailments disappear.

May no one in the world be affected by
famine and scarcity, by theft, loot,
plunder and devastation, or by
epidemics, even for a moment.

Peace be to all.

This space is for YOU to write more quotations.

KEY to QUOTATIONS in this section :

- A. Bible
- B. Zend Avesta
- C. Bible
- D. Laws of Manu
- E. Koran
- F. Jain sources

- A. My children, the secret of religion is not in theories, but in practice.

To be good and to do good.... that is the whole of religion.

- B. God loves not mischief, but only good deeds.

- C. Good words without good deeds are like flowers without scent, but good deeds added to good words are fragrant flowers.

D. To children and to the poor, to all those
who suffer and are lonely... give them
always a happy smile.

Give them not only your care, but also
your heart.

E. As rust eats up iron,
so evil deeds eat up the doer.

This space is for YOU to write more quotations.

KEY to QUOTATIONS in this section :

- A. Swami Vivekananda
- B. Koran
- C. Dhammapada
- D. Mother Teresa
- E. Dhammapada

A. Children, obey your parents....for this is right. Honour your father and mother that it may be well with you and you may have a long life.

B. Be kind to your parents when they become old....

Speak to them respectfullyand say,
"My Lord, have mercy on them because they cared for me when I was young."

PARENTS AND FAMILY

This space is for **YOU** to write more quotations.

KEY to QUOTATIONS in this section :

- A. Bible
- B. Koran

- A. This is the sum of all true righteousness: deal with others as you would like them to deal with you. Do nothing to your neighbour which you would not want him to do to you.

- B. Always treat others as you would like them to treat you.

- C. As pain is undesirable to you, so is it to all other living beings. Knowing it well, act towards others as you would want them to act towards you.

- D. Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. In this way, you will be the children of your Father in Heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and His rain to fall on the honest and dishonest alike. For if you only love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even tax-collectors do that, don't they?

E. Consider all beings like yourself. Be friendly to all living beings. Do not insult anybody or speak ill of anyone.

F. Let no man mock another man who may perhaps be better than himself. Let no woman mock another woman, who may perhaps be better than herself. Do not defame one another,....do not spy on one another, nor backbite one another.

G. Oh Lord, may I ever have love for all beings, joy in the meritorious, unstinted sympathy and compassion for the distressed, and tolerance towards the per-versely inclined.

H. You want to love God?
It is very simple....
Love your fellow beings !

This space is for **YOU** to write more quotations.

KEY to QUOTATIONS in this section :

- A. Mahabharata
- B. Bible
- C. Jain sources
- D. Bible
- E. Jain sources
- F. Koran
- G. Jain sources
- H. Shri Chaitanya

- A. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.
- B. Should anyone strike you,
Return not blow for blow.
Rather, touch the feet of him who hits
you
And go peacefully homeward.
- C. A man should not hate any living creature.
Let him be friendly and compassionate
to all....
He must be forgiving, ever contented,
self-controlled....
His attitude is the same towards
friend and foe.
- D. He who forgives and is reconciled to his
enemy, shall receive his reward from
God.

E. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, even as God....
has forgiven you.

F. Return good for evil;
Do not let the sun set upon your anger.

G. Hatred never ceases by hatred;
It ceases by love alone.

H. A single-minded man cannot hate
another.

If he sees God in all, his foe becomes his
brother.

FORGIVENESS

This space is for **YOU** to write more quotations.

KEY to QUOTATIONS in this section :

- A. Bible
- B. Guru Granth Sahib
- C. Gita
- D. Koran
- E. Bible
- F. Guru Granth Sahib
- G. Dhammapada
- H. Tukuram

A. One should honour another man's sect, for by doing so one increases the influence of one's own sect and benefits that of the other man.

B. Holiness, purity and charity are not the exclusive possessions of any church in the world. Every system has produced men and women of exalted character. If anyone dreams of the exclusive survival of his own religion and the destruction of others, I pity him from the bottom of my heart, and point out to him that upon the banner of every religion will soon be written :

*'Help and not Fight',
'Assimilation and not
Destruction',
'Harmony and Peace and not
Dissension'.*

C. Some believe that they may eat all things, others eat herbs. Let not him who eats despise him who eats not, and let not him who eats not judge him that eats.

D. The quarrels of religious sects are like the disputing of pots, which shall be alone allowed to hold the immortalising nectar. Let them dispute, but the thing for us is to get at the nectar in whatever pot and attain immortality.

E. There is no compulsion in religion.

F. Sectarianism, bigotry, and its horrible descendant, fanaticism, have long possessed this beautiful earth. They have filled the earth with violence, drenched it often and often with human blood, destroyed civilisation, and sent whole nations to despair. Had it not been for these horrible demons, human society would be far more advanced than it is now.

G. As different rivers flow through different courses to merge in the same ocean, so do individuals follow different paths to the Almighty.

H. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

I. All the four great communities of the world, under the aegis of the four great religions : Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Christian, are here together. It is as though Providence has opened a vast laboratory on Indian soil for the purpose of a massive social fusion.

J. All mankind are one great family of which numerous nations and tribes existing are only various branches. Therefore, the enlightened wish to encourage and promote the reciprocal advantage and enjoyment of the whole human race.

This space is for **YOU** to write more quotations.

KEY to QUOTATIONS in this section :

- A. Ashoka (Rock Edict, 3rd Century)
- B. Swami Vivekananda (Address to World's Parliament of Religions, 1893)
- C. Bible
- D. Shri Aurobindo
- E. Koran
- F. Swami Vivekananda (same speech)
- G. Tukuram
- H. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 18, General Assembly of the United Nations
- I. Rabindranath Tagore
- J. Raja Rammohan Roy

Let the scriptures be your guide, therefore, in deciding what you must do and what you must not do.

First learn the path of action as the scriptures teach it.

Then act accordingly.

— *Gita*

BRIEF INTRODUCTIONS TO :

BUDDHISM



CHRISTIANITY



HINDUISM



ISLAM



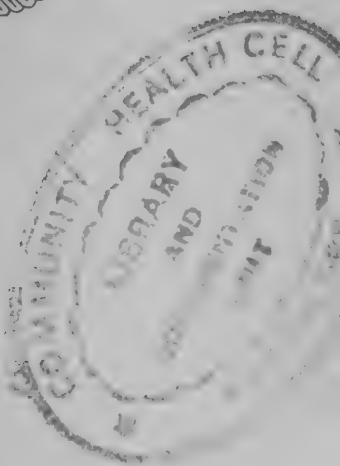
JAINISM

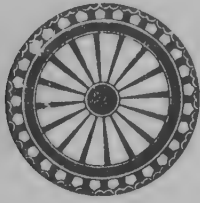


SIKHISM



ZOROASTRIANISM





Dharma-Chakra
(Wheel of the Law)



A religion based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha. He was born in northern India in the 5th century, B.C.

Buddha's teaching outlined an eight-fold path of right belief, right resolve, right word, right act, right life, right effort, right thinking and right meditation. Buddha gave special importance to pity, kindness and patience. He taught his followers to have high moral ideals, to be generous to the poor, to go on pilgrimages and to have social responsibilities. He attributed all his realisation, attainments and achievements to human intelligence. Buddhism advocates and preaches non-violence and peace as its universal message.

Emperor Ashoka (about 250 B.C.) was a Buddhist. Nowadays there are very few Buddhists in India. Today's Buddhist countries are Sri Lanka, Tibet, Bhutan, Burma, Thailand, Mongolia, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Cambodia, etc.

There are hundreds of Buddhist holy books. Most of them are written in Pali, Sanskrit, Chinese and Tibetan. They are full of wisdom and moral teachings. One of the most important holy books is called the Dhammapada.



Cross



The religion of Christians, the followers of Jesus Christ, who worship Him as the Son of God.

Jesus was born in Palestine in the international calendar year 'zero'. He preached a religion of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Christians believe that Jesus Christ came into the world to save people from their sins. They also believe that after Jesus' earthly life, God's presence remains on earth in the form of the Holy Spirit.

Shortly after Jesus was put to death on a cross, rose from the dead and re-joined His Father in heaven, one of His followers, St. Thomas, came to India to tell the people about Him and to spread His message of love. The Christian community in India is almost 2,000 years old.... much older than in the U.S.A., the U.K. and other so-called Christian countries.

The holy book of Christians is the Bible. They worship in churches.



Om



The major religion of India, where 85% of the people are Hindu. The Hindu religion is ancient at least 4,000 years old. It has no single founder or creed and includes a very wide range of beliefs and practices. Although Hindus respect hundreds of gods and goddesses, the three main manifestations are Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva except for eastern India, where goddesses like Durga and Kali reign supreme.

Hindu worship can be either at a small shrine in the home or at a temple (*mandir*). The worshipper goes to the temple to see (*darshan*) the image of the god and to receive the ceremonial food (*prasad*). The priests are from the Brahmin caste.

Hindu holy books include the Vedas, the Puranas, the Gita, the Code of Manu, etc. The Mahabharata and the Ramayana are great Hindu epics.

Hinduism is traditionally very tolerant towards other religions.



Moon and Star



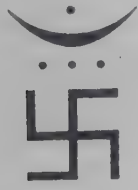
Islam is the name of the faith of the Muslims. The word 'Islam' means 'obedience'. Muslims are obedient to the teachings of their holy book, the Koran.

Muslims believe that the Koran was dictated to the Prophet Mohammed by the Angel Gabriel. Mohammed was born in Arabia in 570 A.D. The Koran is written in Arabic.

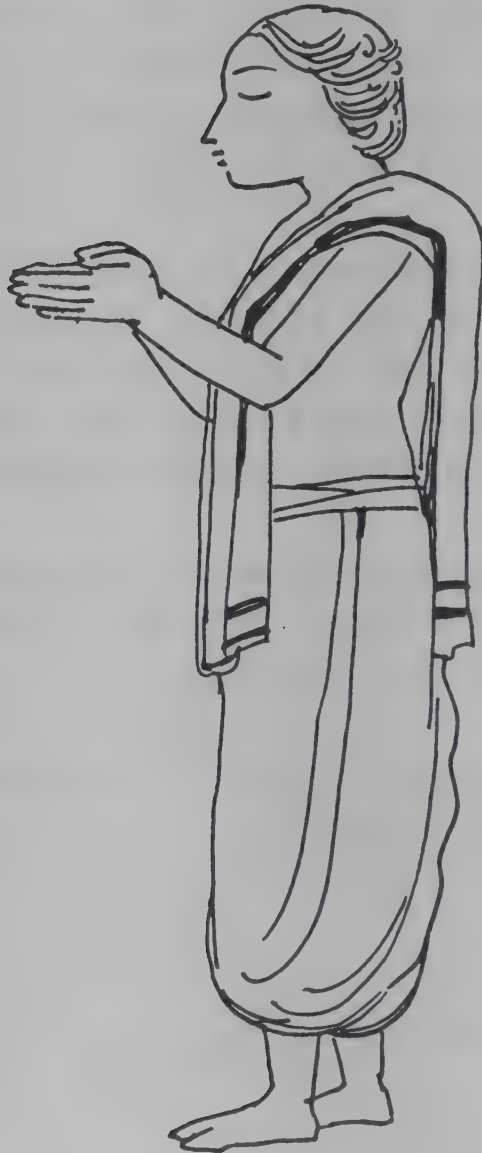
Muslims believe in one God, whom they call Allah. Devout Muslims pray five times a day and also fast at the appointed times. During the month-long Ramzan fast, they neither eat nor drink anything from dawn to sunset.

Muslims have lived in India since about 1550. Akbar the Great, Emperor of India from 1556 to 1605, was a Muslim.

The Muslim's place of worship is called a mosque or *masjid*.



Swastika



An ancient Indian religion revived by Mahavira Tirthankara about the 6th century B.C.

Jains believe that Mahavira (the Great Hero) was the 24th in a line of Tirthankaras or teachers of the Jain principles. Jains honour the Tirthankaras and other holy persons, but do not believe in a supreme God.

Jainism is based on the belief that every living thing has an eternal soul (*jiva*) and a temporary physical body. Their aim is to free the *jiva* from the body and its cycle of life-and-death. Jains believe that this is done by living a good life. Jains respect all forms of animal life and are

strict vegetarians. They practice '*ahimsā*' or non-violence and non-injury to living beings. Some Jains wear a piece of cloth over their mouths to prevent accidental injury to any tiny insects in the air. Many Jains are business people because such occupations do not directly involve killing any living thing.

Some of the most famous Jain temples are the Dilwara temples at Mount Abu, Khajuraho in M.P. and the caves of Ellora.



Khanda



A religion that was founded in the Punjab by Guru Nanak (1469-1539).

Guru Nanak taught the oneness of God, brotherhood of men and rejection of caste and idol worship.

Sikhs worship in temples called *gurudwaras*. The holiest place for Sikhs is the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

The holy book of the Sikhs is the Guru Granth Sahib. It contains hymns of the Sikh gurus as well as those of Hindu and Muslim saints such as Kabir.

Sikh men are easy to recognise because of their turbans. They take a vow not to cut their hair, not to smoke and not to drink any alcoholic drinks. The adoption of the title Singh for men and Kaur for women shows that they feel that they belong to one large family regardless of caste.



FRAVASHI (Guardian Spirit)



ZOROASTRIANISM

The religion of the followers of the prophet, Zoroaster (or Zarathustra) who lived in Persia (Iran) in about 1400 B. C. They suffered from religious persecution in Persia and, in about 936 A.D., many Zoroastrians came to India, a land of religious freedom. They settled mostly in and around Bombay, where they are known as Parsees (Persians).

Parsees believe in one God, Ahura Mazda, who created all good things. Zoroaster taught that the earth is a battlefield between good and evil spirits. Ahura Mazda tells everyone to strive to overcome evil by practising good thoughts, good words and good deeds.

The Parsees' place of worship is called a Fire Temple, fire being a symbol of the light of Ahura Mazda.

The sacred book of Parsees is called the Avesta. It is a collection of hymns (the *Gathas*) by Zoroaster.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The editor gratefully acknowledges the support, advice and assistance of Dr. Mrs. Kusum Khemani and the generous talent of Shri Ramananda Bandopadhyay. Sincere thanks are also due to Rev. Dr. M.P. John, Sister Cyril Mooney, IBVM, Mrs. Tina Mehta, Mrs. Shymasree Lal, Mrs. Putul Pramanik and Miss Katayun Saklat as well as to the librarians and staff of the American Centre, Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad, British Council, Max Mueller Bhavan and the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture.

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